

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Masafumi HAYASHI et al.

Serial No.: New Application

Filed: August 3, 2001

For: IMAGE FORMING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
please enter the following specification changes as noted below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 19-21 and 25-35 as follows:

19. (Amended) A protective layer transfer sheet for use in
providing the image forming method according to claim 1.

20. (Amended) A record comprising a protective layer
provided on the image of the print by the image forming method
according to claim 1.

21. (Amended) A record produced by the image forming method according to claim 1, the record having a specular glossiness at 45 degrees in the range of 70 to 110% according to JIS Z 8741.

25. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 22, wherein the nonsilver photographic color hard copy recording system is any one of an electrophotographic recording system, an ink jet recording system, and a thermal transfer recording system.

26. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 22, wherein, in the protective layer transfer sheet, the thermally transferable protective layer contains an ultraviolet absorber.

27. (Amended) A protective layer transfer sheet for use in providing the image forming method according to claim 22.

28. (Amended) A record comprising a protective layer provided on an image in a print by the image forming method according to claim 22.

29. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 1, wherein the thermally transferring step is carried out by means of a thermal head.

30. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 1, wherein the thermally transferring step is carried out by means of a heat roll.

31. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 1, wherein the protective layer transfer sheet is used in a roll form.

32. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 1, wherein the protective layer transfer sheet is used in a separated sheet form.

33. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 32, wherein an assemblage comprising a mount and a protective layer transfer sheet secured on top of the mount is used.

34. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 33, wherein each size of the mount, the protective layer transfer sheet and the print satisfies the following relationship:

$$\text{Mount} \geq \text{Protective layer transfer sheet} \geq \text{Print}.$$

35. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 33, wherein a basis weight of the mount is in a range of 80 to 500 g/m².

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 remain pending herein. Claims 19-21 and 25-35 have been amended hereby.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to eliminate multiply dependent claims from the above-identified application.

Examination of this application on its merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 3, 2001
Date

RWP:RNW/mhs

Attachment: Claim Mark-ups

Attorney Docket No. DAIN:645

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~~15. The image forming method according to claim 14, wherein one type of the thermoplastic resin constitutes a main component of the thermoplastic resin and has a number average molecular weight of not more than 10000 while the other type has a number average molecular weight of not less than 10000.~~

~~16. The image forming method according to claim 10, wherein a release layer is further provided between the thermally transferable protective layer and the substrate film.~~

~~17. The image forming method according to claim 16, wherein the release layer is composed mainly of an acrylic resin having a number average molecular weight of not more than 40000.~~

~~18. The image forming method according to claim 10, wherein the thermally transferable protective layer contains an ultraviolet absorber.~~

19. (Amended) A protective layer transfer sheet for use in providing the image forming method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 18.~~

20. (Amended) A record comprising a protective layer provided on the image of the print by the image forming method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 18.~~

21. (Amended) A record produced by the image forming method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~, the record having a specular glossiness at 45 degrees in the range of 70 to 110% according to JIS Z 8741.

~~22. An image forming method comprising the steps of:~~
 providing a protective layer transfer sheet comprising a thermally transferable protective layer having a single or multi-layer structure separably provided on a substrate sheet;
 providing a print output by a nonsilver photographic color hard copy recording system;

putting the protective layer transfer sheet onto the print and thermally transferring the protective layer onto an image in the print so as to cover at least the printed portion; and
 separating the substrate sheet from the protective layer transfer sheet to form an image provided with a protective layer,
 the specular glossiness of the image provided with the ~~protective layer being 65 to 110% as measured in the angle range~~

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25. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim
22 ~~any one of claims 22 to 24~~, wherein the nonsilver photographic
colorhardcopyrecordingssystemisanyoneofanelectrophotographic
recordingsystem, aninkjetrecordingsystem, andathermaltransfer
recording system.

27. (Amended) A protective layer transfer sheet for use in providing the image forming method according to claim 22 ~~any one of claims 22 to 24.~~

29. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim
~~1, any one of claims 1, 10, 22, 23 and 24~~, wherein the thermally
transferring step is carried out by means of a thermal head.

31. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim
~~1, any one of claims 1, 10, 22, 23 and 24~~, wherein the protective
layer transfer sheet is used in a roll form.

33. (Amended) The image forming method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 32, wherein an assemblage comprising a mount and a protective layer transfer sheet secured on top of the mount is used.

34. (Amended) The image forming method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 33, wherein each size of the mount, the protective layer transfer sheet and the print satisfies the following relationship:

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35. (Amended) The image forming method according to claim 33
~~any one of claims 33 or 34~~, wherein a basis weight of the mount
is in a range of 80 to 500 g/m².